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to other scientific establishments throughout the world. I have given my best endeavors to these ends for twenty-three years.

I am, gentlemen,
Very respectfully and truly yours,
EDWARD S. HOLDEN."

LIST OF RECORDED EARTHQUAKES ON THE PACIFIC COAST, 1769–1897, BY EDWARD S. HOLDEN; ILLUSTRATED.

The Smithsonian Institution is about to print, in its *Miscellaneous Contributions*, a work with the above title. The data are derived from a similar list of recorded earthquakes, 1769–1888 (with a very considerable number of additions and a few corrections), which was issued by the University of California in 1888, and from the annual publications of the Lick Observatory (printed in the *American Journal of Science*, the *Publications* of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, the *Bulletins* of the U. S. Geological Survey) since that date. The annual records referred to have been compiled by Messrs. HOLDEN, KEELER, and PERRINE from observations at Mt. Hamilton, and from miscellaneous reports of earthquake shocks. They have been thoroughly sifted and revised in the present work, which is believed to contain all trustworthy data on the subject of Pacific Coast earthquakes since 1769. E. S. H.

MT. HAMILTON, September 1, 1897.

MEASURES OF THE COMPANION OF *SIRIUS*, AND OF β 883.

I have obtained measures of the companion of *Sirius* on two nights, September 23d and October 2d. On the former date the companion was readily seen for at least ten minutes after sunrise. The measures are:—

	θ_0	ρ_0	Weight.
1897.731	175°.9	3″.92	5
1897.756	174 .4	4 .04	3

Another binary star of considerable interest is β 883. It was discovered by Mr. BURNHAM in 1879, and was soon found to be in rapid motion. Dr. SEE (*Monthly Notices* R. A. S., June, 1897), in a recent investigation, found the period to be only five and a half years. If this result is even approximately correct, the star is by far the most rapid visible binary known.

I have secured three measures recently with the 36-inch